

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBIE-00 USSS-00 MCT-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01

IO-13 /071 W

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O 031217Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7755

INFO AMEMBASSY DOUALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 8288

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EK

SUBJECT: REPORTED ASSASSINATION OF EQUATORIAL GUINEAN
PRESIDENT MACIAS

REF: STATE 269243

1. PRESS REPORTS ON RUMORS OF MACIAS ASSASSINATION WERE QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY OTHER REPORTS DENYING THEM, AND FOLLOW-UP PRESS REPORTS, DRAWING ON SUCH SOURCES AS AIRLINES PERSONNEL AND TRAVELERS ARRIVING IN MADRID OVER LONG WEEKEND, SAID SITUATION IS ESSENTIALLY NORMAL.

2. AFTERNOON PAPER NOV. 2 SAID THERE WAS DEMONSTRATION OF SOME 5,000 SUNDAY IN SUPPORT OF MACIAS IN WAKE OF "WHAT WERE JUDGED TO BE ATTACKS AGAINST HIS PERSON IN THE SPANISH ." ACCOUNT CONTINUED THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS CALM AND FEARED ATTACKS AGAINST RESIDENT SPANIARDS DID NOT MATERIALIZE, AND ASSERTED, "LIFE IN GUINEA IS CONTINUING, ACCORDING TO EY-WITNESSES, WITH ABSOLUTE CALM. THE TEST FOR THE SPANISH RESIDENTS HAS PASSED. IN OFFICIAL SPANISH CIRCLES THERE EXISTS THE INTENTION OF INCREASING COOPERATION WITH THE
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FORMER AFRICAN COLONY, AND TODAY OPTIMISM IS NOTICEABLE."

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF SUBSAHARA AFRICA (CASSINELLO) TOLD EMBOFF THAT BASED ON DIRECT WORD THEY HAD BOTH FROM THEIR CHARGE AND FROM RECENT ARRIVALS, THEY BELIEVE RUMOR TO BE FALSE. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY HAD NO PROOF MACIAS ALIVE, CASSINELLO SAID IF HE HAD BEEN SHOT, SITUATION IN EG WOULD NOT BE WHAT THEY KNOW IT TO BE, ABSOLUTELY CALM.

4. CASSINELLO ALSO CONFIRMED PRESS STORY CITED PARA 2 ABOVE, ADDING THAT THEY HAD INDICATIONS THAT ORDERS, PRESUMABLY PRESIDENTIAL, HAD BEEN GIVEN THAT SPANIARDS WERE NOT TO BE TOUCHED, AND THAT THE DEMONSTRATION, WHICH WAS OF SOLIDARITY WITH MACIAS AGAINST THE SPANISH PRESS, WAS EXTRAORDINARILY WELL-ORDERED. HE SAID MINISTRY CONTACTS WITH EG EMBASSY HERER HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY AND INDICATED HE THOUGHT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN ENCOURAGING MODERATION IN EG. IN SUM, HE SAID, THE NEWS FOR THE MOMENT IS REASSURING, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE ONE NEVER KNOWS ABOUT THE FUTURE.
STABLER

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